

A RESOLUTION to designate State Route 22 in Weakley County
as the "Governor Ned McWherter Parkway".

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should create a lasting tribute to a Tennessean who has contributed so significantly to the progress of this great state; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ned McWherter is one such remarkable public servant, a voice of integrity in state and national political circles; and

WHEREAS, a native son of Weakley County, Ned McWherter has provided unprecedented leadership for Tennessee as its 46th governor; and

WHEREAS, Governor McWherter's distinguished career in state government began in 1968 when he won a seat in the Tennessee House of Representatives. His down-to-earth business sense and commitment to progress quickly earned him the respect of his legislative peers. After just two terms, he was elected Speaker of the House, a position he held longer than anyone in Tennessee history; and

WHEREAS, as Speaker, Governor McWherter was instrumental in re-establishing the General Assembly as an independent branch of Tennessee government; he prided himself on continuing Tennessee's tradition of careful fiscal management and worked closely with four governors during his legislative career to find creative solutions to issues facing Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Governor McWherter's desire to keep Tennessee moving forward led him to seek the governorship, which he won by more than 100,000 votes; and

WHEREAS, the people approved of his service and he was re-elected in 1990 by nearly 200,000 votes; and

WHEREAS, throughout his stellar service as governor of this great state, Governor McWherter has stressed strict financial management, elimination of bureaucratic red tape, and finding creative solutions to the problems facing Tennessee. He has also brought innovative management styles to state government, allowing him to expand services to the public, make major new investments in education and economic development, and keep the state's budget balanced, while keeping taxes low; and

WHEREAS, since Governor McWherter took office, Tennessee has enjoyed a period of record economic growth and development, emerging as a national leader in the creation of jobs; and

WHEREAS, during his administration, Tennessee's economy has been rated the strongest in the South, and the fifth strongest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Governor McWherter has been an unremitting force in efforts to open up communities for new jobs; he has also begun the first state-funded program in Tennessee to help depressed communities build the facilities they need to attract industry and jobs; and

WHEREAS, with his inspired leadership, Tennessee has the lowest unemployment rate since we began keeping records, with the number of counties with double digit unemployment falling from 42 to only one; and

WHEREAS, because of the Governor's emphasis on education reform to create a highly trained Tennessee work force for the year 2000 and beyond, Tennessee has become known throughout the world as a premier location for new industry and business also; and

WHEREAS, he has continued Tennessee's leadership in education reform by emphasizing competitive pay for classroom teachers, reductions in the state's dropout rate, and creation of the innovative Literacy 2000 Program to give all Tennesseans the chance to learn reading and writing skills; and

WHEREAS, in the past three years, Tennessee's primary and secondary schools have experienced the nation's greatest growth in state funding, an increase of 49%; and

WHEREAS, Governor McWherter has increased state financial commitments to higher education through his education reform bill, while expanding opportunities for excellence in scientific research, technology, health sciences and the arts; and

WHEREAS, as governor, Ned McWherter carried out the largest road building program in Tennessee history, constructing one thousand miles of roads; and

WHEREAS, in the field of corrections, Governor McWherter's high tech management system cut operating costs in new prisons by almost half and Tennessee today has the only fully accredited prison system in the nation as we have taken control of the prisons back from criminals and courts; and

WHEREAS, during the McWherter administration, Tennessee has been recognized by respected national publications as the best managed state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, he has provided universal health care coverage for Tennesseans by means of his innovative and bold creation of the TennCare program; and

WHEREAS, because of his strength and compassion, some 400,000 members of working families now can afford health insurance, while taxpayers have saved money and avoided otherwise certain tax increases in the old Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, Governor McWherter has done all these things while holding taxes down and in fact making Tennessee's the absolutely lowest state and local tax burden in the entire country; and

WHEREAS, Governor McWherter, having been recognized by Governing magazine as America's best governor, has set the standard by which all other governors and other leaders must measure themselves; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That

State Route 22 in Weakley County from the southeastern border of Weakley County to the “Milton Hamilton Highway” is hereby designated as the “Ned McWherter Parkway” in recognition of his meritorious and peerless career in public service and his unswerving commitment to the continued growth and prosperity of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating State Route 22 in Weakley County as the “Ned McWherter Parkway”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Governor McWherter with the final three resolving clauses omitted from such copy.